

## LOVE - Lay Talk - Third Day

THIS TALK SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN 15 MINUTES!

CORE IDEAS:

- Differentiate between God's love and human love
- God's unconditional love

LORD'S PRAYER

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Speaker introduces self
- B. Speaker gives title of talk
- C. Remind to take notes

### I. LOVE IS DEFINED

- A. Different kinds of Love – What do you think of when you hear the word “LOVE”?

Did you know that there were different kinds of love? Television and movies often lead us to believe that love and sex is the same thing but they aren't. In the New Testament, three principle types of love appear:

1. Phileo - is a Greek word which means brotherly love. It is the kind of love you might feel for a brother or sister, or anyone with whom you have a lot in common and whose company you enjoy.
  2. Eros - is a Greek word that refers to sexual love. Within the bounds of a marriage relationship, it is beautiful, meaningful and fulfilling as a married man and woman give themselves to each other and become one. But apart from that caring relationship, the sex act (alone) is neither "love" nor "making love".
  3. Agape - is a Greek word which means love. This is the kind of love God has for us. It is spoken of in Romans 5:8, "But God has shown us how much He loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" It is the kind of love that God gives us freely, expecting nothing back in return. Romans 5:5, "God has poured out His love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us."
- B. Love means different things to different people. You can't love something that can't

love you back. (brief illustration)

C. God defined love in John 13:34 Love each other as I have loved you and John 3:16.

God gave us the example. (Can you imagine loving someone so much that you would be willing to give up the life of your only son so that the person would be o.k.? God did that for you and for me.)

D. God loves us unconditionally; and He gives us His love so we may love God and other people. It is because of "Agape Love" that we are here. We aren't getting paid to be at Epiphany. We don't expect anything in return. We have come to love you with God's love, because God loves us and God loves you!

### III. WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE (Speaker should illustrate through personal witness)

A. Love is not given expecting anything in return. Love is not motivated out of what we need but out of our genuine concern for the good of others. Love is motivated by the need to serve others. All of us are called to love. True love is the love Christ had for us. Jesus gave us all He had. He died for our sins because He loved us that much. The ultimate act of how to love.

B. Explain the difference between God's love and human love. Typically the questions they want answered is why does "love" hurt and why do the people we love hurt us. Specifically address both of these concerns.

C. Read 1st John 4: 7-12 and Matthew 22: 37-39 and explain.

D. Loving God and other people - even our enemies - is our most important job. 1st John 4: 19-21 Sometimes it's hard to love as God wants us to love. It's hard to love our enemies. It's hard to love others without attaching strings. God knew it would be hard to love others and that is why He sent His Holy Spirit to be with us.

### IV. GOD'S LOVE DEFINED AND ILLUSTRATED

A. 1st Corinthians 13: 1-13. Explain using this scripture that we are not loving when we are jealous, or lose patience or remember wrongs... Also explain that we are loving when we forgive, or put our feelings aside to do what is best for someone else, or encourage others...

B. Portray God's love through giving examples of people's "only-if" love versus God's unconditional love in your life. God's love doesn't love us because of what we do. Real love has no conditions. God's love has always been there for us. His love never gives up on us.

C. God shows us He loves us through other people. God's unconditional love is what made Epiphany possible. People are praying for you, serving on this team, making things for you because they love you with the love of Christ.

D. Personal witness of the speaker. Share how God's unconditional love has touched your life.

Place puzzle piece in the puzzle at the end of the talk.